

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

UNCLASSIFIED

5/6/81

2) File Sec 11

DG075

R

TO : POL Files

FROM : POL - Townsend B. Friedman

SUBJECT: Follow-Up On the Romano Case

DATE: May 6, 1981

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☒ In Full

☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to

Date ☐ Declassify on ☐ Reason

(Background. Angel Romano disappeared for 7 days, March 27-April 3. We were informed of his disappearance by human rights activists and subsequently took it up with both the Foreign Office here and the Argentine Embassy in Washington. Romano was surfaced in custody. We were told by the Foreign Office he was arrested on common criminal charges. The Chief of Police of Buenos Aires Province reiterated this in a public declaration.)

Emilio Mignone and Augusto Conte Macdonell denied today the truth of the GOA's statement that Romano was arrested on common criminal charges. They note that as soon as Romano appeared before a criminal court judge he was let go by the latter who ruled that there were no grounds to hold him. The two human rights activists also state that while the Police Chief's statement said that Romano was arrested as part of an investigation of robberies at the Upjohn plant by employees there in 1979, Romano had quit the Upjohn job in 1976. They also state that Romano alleges that he was severely tortured while in police custody. Conte Macdonell observed that Romano is very closed-mouthed about his political affiliations but he and others believe that Romano was associated with the banned Socialist Labor Party engaging in labor and political activities on its behalf.

Cleared: POLCOUNS:JFKing

cc: POL - V. Blocker
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